



Transportation Advisory Committee

Date: February 12, 2020

Time: 7:15 PM – 8:05 PM

Location: 730 Massachusetts Avenue, Town Hall Annex, 2nd Floor Conference Room

Minutes

Members in Attendance: Daniel Amstutz, Wayne Chouinard, Lenard Diggins, Melissa Laube, Jeff Maxtutis, Howard Muise, Corey Rateau, Tycho Nightingale, Scott Smith, Laura Swan, Chuck Giroux, Aravind Basavapathruni.

Members Missing: Michael Gordon, Ky Bertoli.

1. Public Comments.

None.

2. Administration.

Approval of the January 8 minutes was postponed to the next meeting to incorporate various edits. Howard Muise noted correspondence that was sent from TAC to the AHS Building Committee regarding changes to planning transportation improvements as a result of value engineering. He also noted that this meeting was shorter than usual due to the TAC Social taking place at the Masonic Lodge from 8-10 PM.

3. Town Issues/Activities (not already on agenda).

Wayne Chouinard provided several updates:

- a. He noted that the DPW had a pre-construction meeting about the Lake Street/Bikeway traffic signal project. The project has been awarded to Dagle Electrical. Since the bid for this project came in over budget, DPW will transfer \$60,000 from the signal upgrade budget towards this project. The plan is to construct the project in the summer after school gets out in June.
- b. Staff have undergone Pavement Management System Training and are updating the future plans for roadwork. For upcoming pavement maintenance DPW plans to use a combination of an

ultrathin wear course and rubber chip seal. The Town's Pavement Condition Index (PCI) has increased over the years to 81.

- c. Significant repaving projects over the next few years include sections of Mass Ave from Medford Street to Pond Lane and Mill Street to Water Street/Library Way, as well as Summer Street from Summer Street Place to Mystic Street. The committee discussed the need for public outreach around these projects, especially for the Mass Ave projects, due to their visibility and significance. Chouinard noted he will bring back more information to TAC as these projects begin to take shape.

Daniel Amstutz noted several updates from the Department of Planning and Community Development:

- a. No Turn signs have been installed on Victoria Road at the intersections of Johnson Road, Radcliffe Road, and Richfield Road. The signs have been placed to reinforce that Victoria Road is a one-way street and wrong-way driving is illegal. The intent is to address concerns about wrong-way driving that were brought up by neighborhood residents.
- b. Staff are working with Nelson\Nygaard on the Sustainable Transportation Plan. Amstutz has been uploading data for them and working on the schedule of public engagement. He will keep TAC updated as the project progresses.
- c. Amstutz gave a presentation to the Community Preservation Act Committee about the Minuteman Bikeway Planning Project. TAC provided a letter of support for this project. DPCD is seeking CPA funds for this project. Staff are now waiting for the recommendation from the CPA Committee.
- d. DPCD has applied for MassTrails Grant funds to design an accessible trail connection between the Minuteman Bikeway and the Arlington Reservoir loop trail. Awards will be announced later in the spring.
- e. As part of a collaboration with three other communities, Arlington will receive funds for a bike share program from the MassDOT Workforce Transportation Grant. The award was recently announced and there are a number of details to be worked out. The Town is planning to have the Bluebikes program expand into East Arlington.

- f. There is currently a meeting taking place in the Senior Center related to the dredging of Spy Pond to remove runoff and sediment that washes into the Pond from Route 2. A pedestrian/bike path between Route 2 and Spy Pond will need to be temporarily narrowed or closed during construction. For more information members can contact Emily Sullivan, the Town's Environmental Planner.
- g. In response to a question from Chouinard, Amstutz noted that the Safe Routes to School Infrastructure Grant is working its way through the MassDOT project development process. The project must be placed on the Boston MPO Transportation Improvement Program, and funding is available in federal fiscal years 2022-2024. The timing of the design process for the SRTS project will depend on what year the project is placed into.

Corey Rateau noted several updates from APD:

- a. New No Parking signs have been installed on Bartlett Avenue opposite the Whole Foods parking lot. APD has not had to do much ticketing because of voluntary compliance. More information is provided in the agenda item below.
- b. Rateau applied for a transportation grant through the state but has not heard about whether it has been awarded.
- c. He is working on the traffic and parking impacts from the Arlington High School construction that will begin later this month or in early March.
- d. He is working on delivering data to Amstutz to help with the existing conditions report of the Sustainable Transportation Plan. This includes information on traffic counts, crashes, parking enforcement, and traffic complaints.
- e. Mobile parking payment will soon be available for paying on-street and municipal parking lot fees. APD has gotten over some technical issues and parking enforcement officers have received new equipment. The Town is going to be working with PayByPhone.

4. Update: AHS Building Committee.

Muise referred to the letter he had sent to the AHS Building Committee expressing TAC's concerns about the recent changes to remove certain transportation improvements from the new building – specifically the

Minuteman Bikeway connection and traffic signal at Mill Street and Mill Brook Drive. Muise was invited to a Arlington High School Building Committee meeting and gave testimony about TAC's concerns. The Building Committee members were sympathetic and acknowledged his concerns, but stated that there was little else they could do because the funding gap needed to be addressed. A member of the public also raised a concern about the elimination of the pedestrian connection along the east side of the building between Mass Ave. and the back of the building. Muise also spoke to the Town Manager and there is interest in finding other sources of funding to help build the Bikeway connector and the traffic signal, among other planned improvements.

5. Update: Parking and Traffic Direction on Bartlett Ave.

Rateau and Amstutz noted they will be meeting with residents of Bartlett Ave tomorrow to discuss their concerns about traffic and parking on Bartlett Ave. The residents have made requests for a traffic study, greater enforcement of parking bylaws, and adding signage for timed parking. These will all be discussed during this meeting and an update will be provided at the next TAC meeting.

6. Update: Wellesley Road One-way.

Laura and Scott have drafted a letter to be sent to the residents of Wellesley Road who requested changing the road to be one-way. DPCD will mail out this letter to the residents in advance of the next TAC meeting. This letter gives the residents the option of meeting with the working group before the TAC meeting or to come to the March TAC meeting to discuss the request and TAC recommendation.

There being no further business, Muise adjourned the meeting for the TAC Social at 8:05 PM.